



SPARK GAP

Vol. 40, Issue 6, June 2023 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities*

On Our MARC:

Please join us Saturday, June 17 8 am at the Johnson County REMC building in Franklin for our monthly meeting. Our speaker will be Mike Turner, NV9I. The topic is "Above and Below, and Interesting Things in between."

Hope to see you Saturday.

73,

Tim

WC9G

CLUB DUES FOR 2023

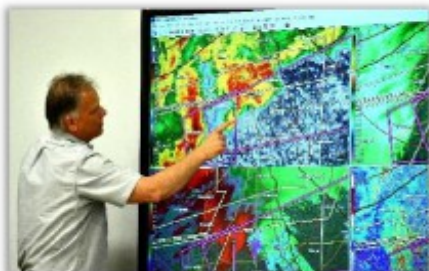
It is that time of year for your membership dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The annual membership dues is \$25.00 per year and has not changed from last year.

This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address, contact information or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2023.

Please see Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG M.A.R.C. Treasurer

WHIRL WIND SPOTTER TRAINING



Over two dozen Johnson County Amateur Radio operators attended the April 13, 2023 Skywarn Spotter class to learn the latest on weather spotting and the recent Johnson County tornado outbreak.

According to Sam Lashley, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at Indianapolis NWS office, an EF-0

tornado caused damage near Bargersville and a stronger EF-3 tornado caused extensive damage across Whiteland and into Shelby county.

The late night Skywarn activation included 38 amateur radio operators who were first to report trees down, roads closed and wide spread damage. Many of those reporters attended the two-hour class to learn more about tornadoes and close to home facts about Johnson county damage.



Sam Lashley explained how storm systems are formed and how many become powerful tornadoes or powerful downbursts.

Lashley showed

recorded Doppler Radar data and eyewitness pictures of previous tornadoes and the resulting damage.



One of the most interesting new technologies in Doppler radar is the ability to discern rain, from wind and resulting debris fields coming from surface winds when tornadoes rip across the countryside. Those are the RADAR INDICATED tornado warnings we now hear being broadcast. Lashley emphasized that amateur radio operators are still the eyes and ears for Ground Truth reports during a storm.

W9MID is the official Skywarn repeater during severe weather. 146.835 with a 151.4 pl.

..... Jack, W8ISH

Important Information When Using Your HT While Driving

IC 9-13-2-177.3

Exemption for FCC licensed amateur radio operators using a handheld amateur radio while driving (NOT an exemption for cellphone use!)

IC 9-13-2-177.3 "Telecommunications device"

Sec. 177.3 (a) "Telecommunications device", for purposes of IC 9-21-8, IC 9-25-4-7, IC 9-24-11-3.3 (before its repeal), and IC 9-24-11-3.7, means an electronic or digital telecommunications device. The term includes a:

- (1) wireless telephone;
- (2) personal digital assistant;
- (3) pager; or
- (4) text messaging device.

(b) The term does not include:

- (1) amateur radio equipment that is being operated by a person licensed as an amateur radio operator by the Federal Communications Commission under 47 CFR Part 97; or
- (2) a communications system installed in a commercial motor vehicle weighing more than ten thousand (10,000) pounds.

As added by P.L.101-2009, SEC.2. Amended by P.L.105-2011, SEC.1; P.L.59-2013, SEC.1; P.L.196-2016, SEC.171.

IC 35-44.1-2-7(6)

Exemption for Amateur Radio Operators monitoring (NOT Transmitting) Police Frequencies, or Scanner use:

IC 35-44.1-2-7 Unlawful use of a police radio

Sec. 7. (a) A person who knowingly or intentionally:

- (1) possesses a police radio;
- (2) transmits over a frequency assigned for police emergency purposes; or
- (3) possesses or uses a police radio or a police radio mobile application:
 - (A) while committing a crime;
 - (B) to further the commission of a crime; or
 - (C) to avoid detection by a law enforcement agency;

commits unlawful use of a police radio, a Class B misdemeanor.

(b) Subsection (a)(1) and (a)(2) do not apply to:

- (1) a governmental entity;
- (2) a regularly employed law enforcement officer;
- (3) a common carrier of persons for hire whose vehicles are used in emergency service;
- (4) a public service or utility company whose vehicles are used in emergency service;
- (5) a person who has written permission from the chief executive officer of a law enforcement agency to possess a police radio;
- (6) a person who holds an amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission if the person is not transmitting over a frequency assigned for police emergency purposes;
- (7) a person who uses a police radio only in the person's dwelling or place of business;
- (8) a person:
 - (A) who is regularly engaged in newsgathering activities;
 - (B) who is employed by a newspaper qualified to receive legal advertisements under IC 5-3-1, a wire service, or a licensed commercial or public radio or television station; and
 - (C) whose name is furnished by the person's employer to the chief executive officer of a law enforcement agency in the county in which the employer's principal office is located;
- (9) a person engaged in the business of manufacturing or selling police radios; or
- (10) a person who possesses or uses a police radio during the normal course of the person's lawful business.

(c) As used in this section, "police radio" means a radio that is capable of sending or receiving signals transmitted on frequencies assigned by the Federal Communications Commission for police emergency purposes and that:

- (1) can be installed, maintained, or operated in a vehicle; or
- (2) can be operated while it is being carried by an individual.

The term does not include a radio designed for use only in a dwelling.

(d) As used in this section, "police radio mobile application" means an application installed on a mobile device that allows a person to listen to the contents of traffic carried on police radio frequencies.

As added by P.L.126-2012, SEC.54. Amended by P.L.66-2019, SEC.15.

..... Thanks Tim, WC9C



BIRTHDAYS FOR JUNE
WB9BVG – SAM CARTER
N9WQF – VINCE MATHEWS
W8ISH – JACK PARKER
W9KMS – STEVEN SEIFERT
WB9CHR – ARTHUR BLEICHER

RAFFLE ITEMS

I have two items that may of interest to club members for raffle during the June 17 meeting:

1.) Battery Box. Brand new. Value \$97. Suggested raffle ticket \$3.



★★★★★ 189

✓ ALL-TOP Battery Box 12V Smart Portable
Solar Generator Power Battery Box with Dual
Anderson Plugs, USB and DC Ports For RV,
Camper And Trailer Batteries, Black
✓ amazon.com

2) Power Station. Brand new. Value \$239. Suggested raffle ticket \$5.



★★★★★ 928

✓ NEXPOW Portable Power Station 300W(Peak
500W),296Wh Lithium Battery 80000mAh, 2-60W
PD and110V/330W Pure Sine Wave AC Outlets,
Solar Generator (Solar Panel Not Included) for
Outdoor Camping/RVs/Home
✓ amazon.com



What is ARRL Field Day?

Produced by ARRL, the national association for amateur radio <http://www.arrl.org>

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

What is the ARRL?

The American Radio Relay League is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA, representing over 170,000 FCC-licensed Amateurs. The ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in ham radio. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.

What is Amateur Radio

Often called “ham radio,” the Amateur Radio Service has been around for a century. In that time, it’s grown into a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications technology. Its people range in age from youngsters to grandparents. Even rocket scientists and a rock star or two are in the ham ranks. Most, however, are just normal folks like you and me who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data and pictures through the air to unusual places, both near and far, without depending on commercial systems.

The Amateur Radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where you as an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Hams not only can make and modify their equipment, but can create whole new ways to do things.

For More Information visit: www.arrl.org/field-day

Updated 3/2021

Opportunity for Public Service

Once again MARC members have been asked to help with the Greater Greenwood Community Band Festival to be held at the Amphitheater at Serena Park in Greenwood. The event will take place on Saturday August 26th from Noon to 7PM. Volunteers will be assisting with Public Safety and parking cars in and around the area. There will be about 10 bands participating in the event and there will also be many people coming to listen to the bands perform. We have helped with this event over the past few years and our efforts are greatly appreciated by the bands and spectators.

This event will be simplex on a UHF frequency and the band will be using FRS radios for communication to the golf carts used transport people to and from parking to the amphitheater area.

Volunteers for this event will need the following items to bring with them:

1. Your favorite HT and charged battery pack. FRS radio to contact the golf cart drivers.
2. Safety Vest
3. Water, Snacks, Sunscreen and Hat
4. Comfortable shoes
5. Chair

Please wear your ham radio gear and anything showing that we are members of MARC. This event is usually low stress with lots of friendly people attending. There are usually no large trucks or buses to park and that makes things very simple in the areas we have to work. Our duties are usually finished by 3:30 PM or 4:00 PM. You can also stay to listen to the Bands, free admission to All.

I will have a sign up sheet at the July club meeting or contact me at: n9siu@yahoo.com. We will need eight volunteers for this event to cover the entrances and places to park cars. This is a great event for new HAMs to work too.

73, Bob N9SIU



Announcement

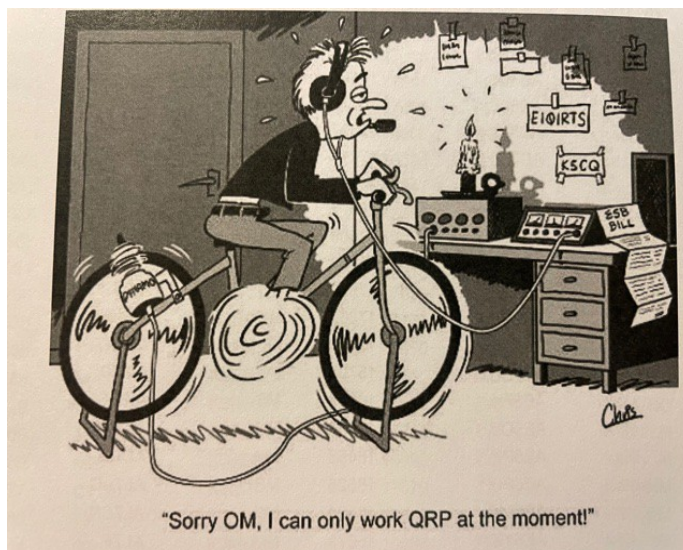
The [Annual 13 Colonies Special Event](#) will take place July 1 - 7, 2023.

The 13 Colonies Special Event is an on-air amateur radio event honoring the original 13 colonies, US independence, active military personnel, and veterans. All amateur radio operators are welcome to participate, including shortwave listeners. Certificates will be available for all participants. Each US state that was one of the original 13 colonies has a special call sign.

All HF bands will be open, including the WARC bands, with the exception of 60 meters. Simplex on 2 and 6 meters is encouraged and the use of 40 - 160 meters is encouraged for stations in the southern east coast. All modes of operation may be used, including SSB, CW, RTTY, and digital. The mode of operation is up to the individual colony/state station. Please refer to each special event station's QRZ page for more details and information

Hamfests

- **Wabash Valley TurkeyFest - Brazil, IN**
Sat 11-25 8:00am
Hamfest is located at the Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds which is Exit 23 of I-70 onto SR-59 North [6550 N SR-59]
GPS: 39.29.03 N 87.07.30 W
Talk-In: 146.685 PL 151.4
Admission: \$7.00
Free Tables - Hourly Door Prizes - Commercial Vendors - Breakfast Available
ENTIRE HAMFEST IS INDOORS - RAIN or SHINE!
<https://www.w9uuu.org/hamf>





MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month
at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Rhonda Curtis - WS9H
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Chris Frederick – KQ9Y
Club Historian: Jack Parker – W8ISH
Club P.I.O. : Jim Williams – N9EJR

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.



Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.

© Copyright 2023 Mid-State Amateur Radio Club